



West Hartford Youth Soccer Association ("WHYSA") Training Division

WHYSA TRAINING DIVISION "LAWS OF THE GAME"¹

Law I-The Field:

A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be divided into three rectangular playing fields with each field's length not more than 30 yards or less than 20 yards, its width not more than 20 yards or less than 15 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. The WHYSA Training Division can accommodate and *recommends* the use of **30 x 20 yard fields**.

B. Markings: The WHYSA Training Division shall use cones and flags to mark the field. One regular cone set at each corner. Disc cones set along the sideline and end lines with one regular cone on each sideline to mark the halfway point. Flags shall be used to mark the goal.

WHYSA hopes to be able to line/paint the fields with distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide as set forth below:

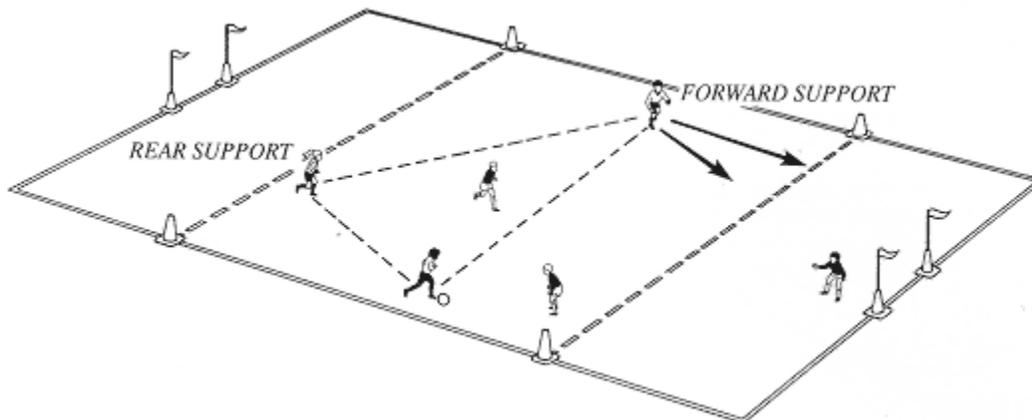
A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.

A center circle with a radius of three (3) yards.

Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: none

B. Goals: The size of hockey goals or 4 x 6 feet with use of flags.



¹ These Laws are adapted from the FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the US Youth Soccer short-sided soccer model.

Law II-The Ball: Size three (3)

Law III-Number of Players:

A. While the Training Division recommends 3 v. 3 games, the maximum number of players on each field at any one time is eight (8), four (4) a side. Be flexible and feel free to adapt.

B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed thirteen (13).

C. There are no goalkeepers. In the 3 a side game we do not recommend playing with a “Sweeper Keeper”. Should both coaches agree on using a Sweeper Keeper, then the child playing Sweeper Keeper shall not use her/his hands. No rule is hard and fast in Short-Sided soccer. If you want to try 4 v. 4 with goalie and the other team’s coach is agreeable, then have fun experimenting.

D. Substitutions: Allowed anytime. It may make sense to limit substitutions to when the ball is out of play, but this is not necessary.

E. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 75% of the total playing time. (A minimum of two uninterrupted quarters.)

F. Teams and games shall be coed.

Law IV-Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

A. Footwear: RECCOMENDED -soft-cleated soccer shoes/cleats.

B. Shin guards: MANDATORY and socks must be worn over shin guards.

C. Uniforms: As provided by WHYSA.

Law V-The Referee: Coaches and registered volunteers shall be used. Their role is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focused on the child. Duties are the same as a Referee under the FIFA Laws of The Game: keep time, enforce the rules, stop, and restart play. When stopping play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the children WHY. Look for teachable moments! This is their first experience with organized soccer and is the best time to educate all on the Laws of The Game. *Caveat:* “Just let the kids Play.” While coaches should take advantage of teaching moments, excessive instruction during the game disrupts the flow of the game and creates a static environment. The coach/referee should foster an active, fun, an energetic playing environment.

Law VI- Assistant Referee: Not used in the short-sided game.

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

A. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters.

B. There shall be two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.

C. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA –

A. Ball must be kicked or rotated forward to a teammate.

B. Opponent must be three (3) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Conform to FIFA: Ball in and Out of Play: Ball must completely cross line to be out of play.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA Ball must completely cross the goal line between posts/flags to count.

Law XI-Off-Side: There is no offside in short-sided games.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: No cautions or ejections shall be issued to children in the Training Division. Instead, award the restart of play to the team fouled.

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. All free kicks will be indirect.

B. Opponents must be three (3) yards away.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: There are no Penalty Kicks in Short-Sided games.

Law XV-Throw-In: Awarded when ball completely crosses sideline. (While we encourage the use of throw-ins, a kick-in may be used). If a foul throw is committed, a coach shall explain and demonstrate the correct method and let the offender re-take the throw. Discretionary power is then given to the referee if another foul throw is committed but, most times, it shall not be called. *Caveat:* “Just let the kids Play.” While coaches should take advantage of teaching moments, excessive instruction during the game disrupts the flow of the game and creates a static environment.

Law XVI-Goal Kick: If the team attempting to score a goal kicks the ball over the Goal line outside the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick. The Goal Kick should be taken within 2-3 yards of the goal. The ball shall be

placed one yard to the right or left of the goal post/flag. The opposing players must be 5-6 yards away.

Law XVII-Corner Kick: If the team defending the goal last touches ball before it crosses the Goal line, the attacking team puts it into play with an indirect kick taken from the corner.

Other WHYSA rules:

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Parent/coaches and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the children.
- Non-coaching parents and spectators should be on the opposite side of the field.
- No alcoholic beverages, smoking or chewing tobacco shall be consumed or allowed anywhere near the soccer field, the spectator area, and/or their surroundings.